



Ensuring Opportunity:
Addressing Poverty in Contra Costa County



The Ensuring Opportunity Campaign was created by the Contra Costa Safety Net Task Force, the Family Economic Security Partnership, and numerous constituents, to reduce poverty in Contra Costa County.



Report Card Committee Purpose

Develop issue-specific report cards for five Safety Net areas:

- **Housing/(homelessness)**
- **Food**
- **Health**
- **Economic Security**
- **Family Safety**

Report Card Committee Goal



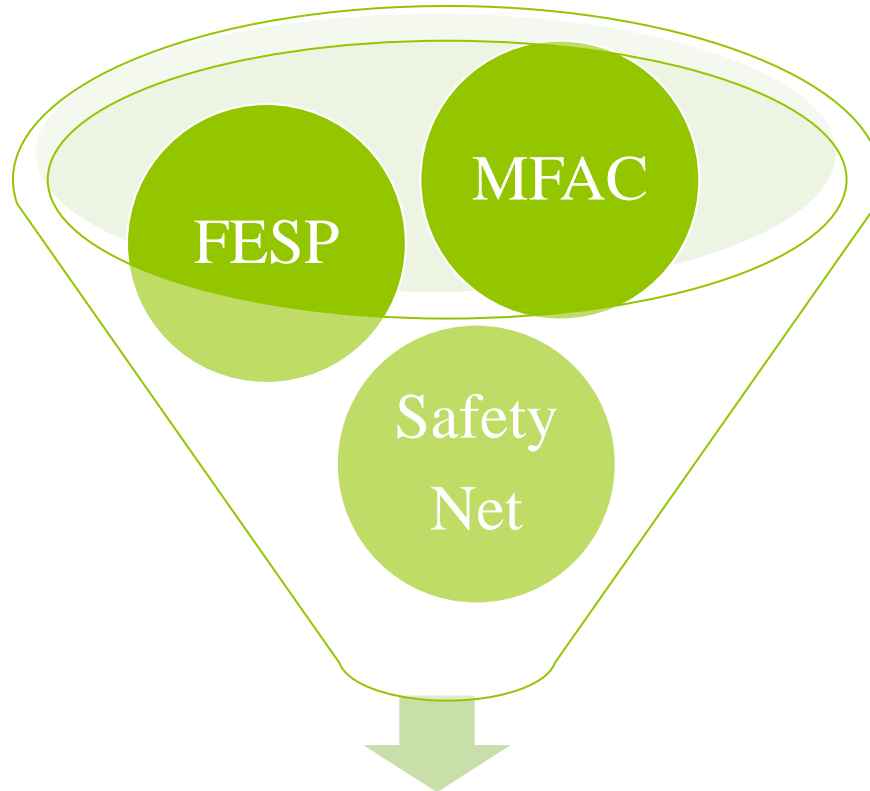
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Is not to generate new data, but rather curate persuasive existing data to cultivate long-term strategies to reduce poverty in Contra Costa County.



- **Who:** Ensuring Opportunity Report Card Committee
- **What:** Draft report card including data and stories
- **When:** Before the end of 2014
- **Where:** Contra Costa County
- **How:** Create brochures, presentations, etc.
- **Why:** Reshape public opinion about poverty
Impact poverty policy
Reduce poverty in throughout the county

Previously working independently on similar issues



Now Working together to **Ensure Opportunity**

Current Priorities



Housing Security



Food Security

Addressing Homelessness



Building on the extensive work of the **Contra Costa Continuum of Care**, the committee is exploring a **Housing First** approach.

The Report Card committee is compiling compelling data affirming the policy need for **housing that is affordable for people who are homeless** vs. “affordable housing”.

Addressing Homelessness



Partners exploring this and similar opportunities include but are not limited to:

**County Homeless Director
Shelter Inc.**

Family Economic Security Partnership

Human Services Alliance

Local Integrated Networks of Care

Multi-Faith A.C.T.I.O.N. Coalition

Employment & Human Services Dept.

Safety Net Task Force

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Housing Security

Did you know?



Housing Insecurity Indicators in Contra Costa County:

- Total number of homeless = 8,252
- On any given night nearly 4,000 individuals are homeless
- Number of people living below the poverty line = 111,609

Did you know?



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Homeless Costs

- Emergency Room visits for the homeless = \$18,500/yr. (avg. 5/yr.)
- Incarceration costs in California = \$47,000/yr. on average

Felons are 7 to 11 times more likely to experience homelessness either before or after prison

Did you know?



Housing Cost in Contra Costa County

- Cost of providing shelter, transitional, and/or permanent housing and services to a household for a year = \$10-25,000/yr. on avg.
(Data provided by Shelter, Inc.).
- Preventing a family's homelessness = \$1,000/yr. on average
(Data provided by Shelter, Inc.)

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Food Security

Did you know in Contra Costa County?



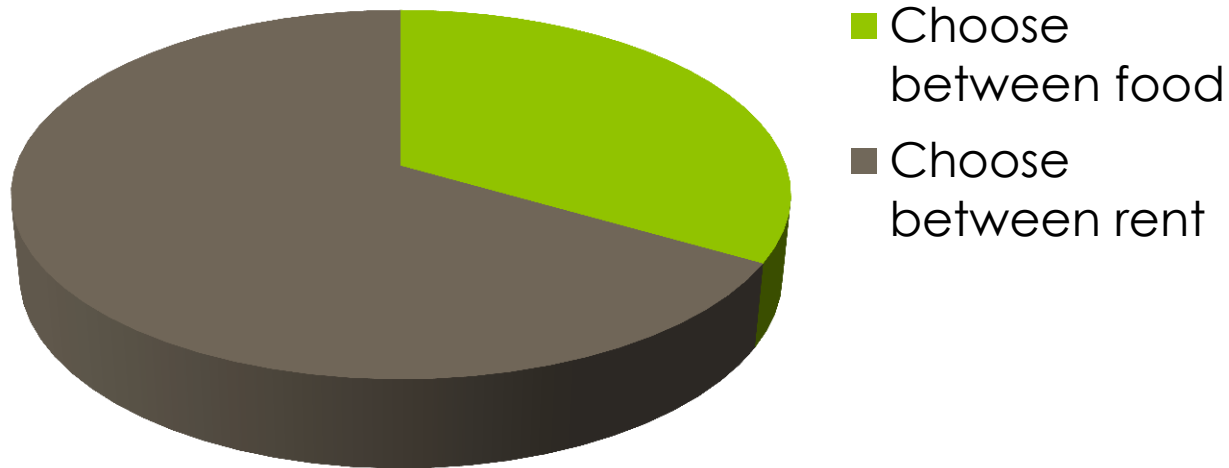
1 in 4 Emergency Food Recipients are Children



Did you know in Contra Costa County?



**1 in 3 food bank clients have to
choose between paying for food or
paying for rent**



Food Bank Quick Facts



- 149,000 people served each month
- 18,000,000 lbs. of food distributed in FY 2013
- enough for over 14 million meals
- Fresh produce is almost $\frac{1}{2}$ of food distributed

**96 CENTS OF EVERY \$1 DONATED
GOES DIRECTLY TO FOOD PROGRAMS**

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Economic Security

Did you know in Contra Costa County?



The self sufficiency standard for one adult and two young children (preschool and school age) is \$63,945

(4 full time minimum wage jobs)

131,800 people live below the federal poverty level

(38,000 of them are children)

Nearly 50,000 residents live in deep poverty

(less than 50% of FPL)

242,744 (23%) people live below 185% FPL

(\$36,611 for a family of 3)



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Q & A